

REMARKS

Claim 1 is pending in this application. By this Amendment, claim 1 is amended and claims 2 and 3 are canceled. Support for the amendments are found in the specification and in the claims as originally filed. In particular, Applicants note that the subject matter of claims 2 and 3 has been incorporated, in part, into claim 1. No new matter is added.

Claims 1-3 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102 (b) as anticipated by JP 53012905 (hereinafter "JP '905"). Applicants respectfully traverse this rejection as it may apply to amended claim 1.

JP '905 discloses a process and a material "useful for desulphurisation of hydrocarbons" (JP '905, English Abstract). The material comprises an "adsorptive carbonaceous substance," "e.g. activated carbon, coke and charcoal," having at least one metal selected from "Fe, Ca, Ni, Cr, Me, W, V, Zn and Mg, or their oxides, sulphides, salts or their mixt." on the adsorptive carbonaceous substance (JP '905, English Abstract). As such, JP '905 is directed to the extraction of hydrogen from hydrogen sulfide for desulfurization of hydrocarbons.

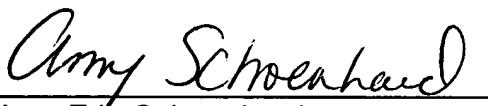
In contrast, the presently claimed invention is directed to a hydrogen-storage material comprising a plurality of carbon carriers, which are carbon nano-tubes and the fine particles carried on the carbon nano-tubes (claim 1). Thus, the presently claimed invention provides a hydrogen-storage material having a high rate of hydrogen storing ability (hydrogen adsorbing) and a high hydrogen-releasing rate through the use of the carbon nano-tubes as carbon carriers (specification, page 4, first full paragraph). Applicants respectfully submit that JP '905 does not teach or suggest such a hydrogen-

storage material using carbon nano-tubes as carbon carriers, much less one having the high rates of hydrogen-absorption or hydrogen-release of the presently claimed invention. Thus, Applicants respectfully request reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection of claims 1-3 under 35 U.S.C. § 102 (b) as anticipated by JP '905.

Applicants respectfully submit that this application is in condition for allowance and such action is earnestly solicited. If the Examiner believes that anything further is desirable in order to place this application in even better condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to contact Applicants' undersigned representative at the telephone number listed below to schedule a personal or telephone interview to discuss any remaining issues.

In the event that this paper is not considered to have been timely filed, the Applicants respectfully petition for an appropriate extension of time. Please charge any fee deficiency or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 01-2300, **referencing attorney docket number 107348-00211.**

Respectfully submitted,


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